

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

Claims 1-50: (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) A carrier having a ~~velourlike~~, finely fibrous topside,  
wherein the carrier is provided with a dressing which has a grain texture having grain  
peaks and grain valleys on its face side,  
wherein the dressing comprises a consolidated polymeric dispersion ~~and is produced  
separately on a substrate having a textured surface corresponding to the grain texture,~~  
wherein the dressing ~~substrate~~ is bonded to the carrier via a single thin bonding layer  
formed from a consolidated, polyurethane-containing polymeric dispersion and having been  
applied to the topside of the carrier,  
wherein the dressing has capillaries which extend through its entire thickness, and  
wherein the dressing has substantially the same thickness in the region of the grain  
peaks and in the region of the grain valleys.

52. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the carrier has a grain  
leather having a buffed grain side forming the topside.

53. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the carrier has a split  
leather having a buffed topside.

54. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the carrier has a  
synthetic velour material having a topside consisting of microfibers.

55. (Currently Amended) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing consists of the consolidated polymeric dispersion ~~and produced separately on a substrate having a textured surface corresponding to the grain texture.~~

56. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the capillaries have different cross sections.

57. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the capillaries are randomly distributed in the dressing.

58. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the capillaries have a diameter between 0.005 mm and 0.05 mm.

59. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the capillaries have a diameter between 0.009 mm and 0.02 mm.

60. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing has at least 100 capillaries per an area of 100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

61. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing has at least 250 capillaries per an area of 100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

62. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the capillaries form substantially straight lines.

63. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer has interruptions.

64. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer has weak places of reduced thickness.

65. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer is arranged partially on the surface of the carrier.

66. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer has a point-, screen- or grid-shaped texture.

67. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer has a netlike texture.

68. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 64, wherein the bonding layer has a maximum thickness between 0.01 mm and 0.05 mm and has a thickness between 0.002 mm and 0.01 mm in its weak places.

69. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the topside is fibrous and the bonding layer is predominantly disposed in the region of the fiber tips, leaving hollow spaces therebetween which cause a pumping effect.

70. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer consists of a consolidated, polyurethane-containing, crosslinked polymeric dispersion.

71. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer consists of a consolidated polyester-polyurethane dispersion.

72. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the polyurethane-containing dispersion has at least in part a wholly or partly crystalline structure.

73. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the polymeric dispersion comprises tackifying additives.

74. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer has a foam structure.

75. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer contains hollow microspheres having a diameter of less than 21  $\mu\text{m}$ .

76. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the bonding layer has an areal weight between 20  $\text{g/m}^2$  and 90  $\text{g/m}^2$ .

77. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing has approximately the same structure and the same density in all cross-sectional regions.

78. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing consists of a combination of a consolidated polyurethane dispersion comprising a crosslinker and having a high softening point, and a consolidated polyurethane dispersion comprising a crosslinker, said dispersion being thermoplastic before crosslinking.

79. (Currently Amended) The carrier of Claim 78, wherein the consolidated polyurethane dispersion has a wholly or partly crystalline structure having a low softening point.

80. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing contains hollow microspheres which form closed cells and have a diameter of less than 21  $\mu\text{m}$ .

81. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the grain peaks in the dressing comprise microscopically small smooth elevations.

82. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the face side of the dressing has a nubuck texture whence protrude fine hairs forming microscopically small elevations.

83. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 79 or 80, wherein the elevations have a diameter between 3  $\mu\text{m}$  and 60  $\mu\text{m}$  and also a maximum length of 110  $\mu\text{m}$ .

84. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 81, wherein the elevations have a diameter between 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

85. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the dressing comprises waxes and/or silicones on its face side.

86. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the face side of the dressing is provided with a thin finish.

87. (Currently Amended) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein its side opposite to the topside provided with the dressing (4) is provided with a substantially roughened synthetic woven or knit having projecting fibers.

88. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 87, wherein the woven or knit is covered by a thin coating.

89. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 51, consisting of a cut format.

90. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 89, consisting of a cut format in the belly region of a leather hide and including a dressing having a highly defined grain texture.

91. (Previously Presented) The carrier of Claim 89, consisting of a cut format in the butt region of a leather hide and including a dressing having a flat grain texture.

92. (Withdrawn) A method of producing the carrier of Claim 51, comprising:

applying a an aqueous polymeric dispersion to a silicone rubber substrate which has a textured surface corresponding to the grain texture of the dressing, to form a film;

applying a polymeric dispersion to the topside of the carrier to form a bonding layer;

placing the topside onto the film and applying a pressure and heat treatment; and

applying a solvent-free polymeric dispersion comprising polyurethane and a crosslinker to the substrate having a uniform temperature of less than 105°C, wherein the solvent-free polymeric dispersion immediately consolidates on impinging on the substrate and, after evaporation of water, a uniformly thick film having a net structure and a thickness of less than 0.04 mm is formed

93. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the polymeric dispersion used consists of a combination of a polyurethane dispersion comprising a crosslinker and having a high softening point and a polyurethane dispersion comprising a crosslinker and having a wholly or partly crystalline structure having a low softening point, said dispersion being thermoplastic before crosslinking.

94. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the polymeric dispersion is applied to the heated substrate by means of a fine mist produced by spraying nozzles having a small diameter.

95. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 94, wherein the spraying is effected without air admixture at a pressure between 40 bar and 100 bar using spray nozzles having a diameter of less than 0.04 mm.

96. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the textured surface of the substrate is produced by molding off the grain texture of a natural leather.

97. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the textured surface of the substrate is produced by laser treatment.

98. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 97, wherein the laser treatment produced textured surface of the substrate is multiplied via a master.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the substrate consists of addition-crosslinked silicone rubber and has a Shore hardness between 25 Shore A and 70 Shore A.

100. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the substrate is composed of a heat-conductive silicone rubber having a density of more than  $110 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

101. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 100, wherein the substrate is composed of a heat-conductive silicone rubber having a density of more than  $120 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

102. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 101, wherein the substrate has inorganic fillers embedded in it.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the substrate is bonded to a metallic support.



104. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 103, wherein the substrate is bonded adhesively to the metallic support.

105. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 103, wherein the support is aluminum.

106. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 103, wherein the support consists of an aluminum sheet between 1 mm and 3 mm in thickness.

107. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 103, wherein the bonding of the substrate to the metallic support is effected by means of a one-component silicone adhesive which embeds a thin nonwoven web material of synthetic fibers with a basis weight of less than 150 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

108. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the polymeric dispersion applied to the topside of the carrier consists essentially of a polyurethane dispersion which has a low softening point and a wholly or partly crystalline structure and of a crosslinker, such that, on impinging on the topside of the carrier, it rapidly consolidates and forms a noncoherent bonding layer.

109. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 108, wherein the polyurethane dispersion has a wholly or partly crystalline structure

110. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the polymeric dispersion applied to the topside of the carrier consists essentially of a polyurethane dispersion which has a low softening point and a wholly or partly crystalline structure and of a crosslinker, such that, on impinging on the topside of the carrier, it rapidly consolidates and forms a bonding layer having weak places of reduced thickness.

111. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the substantially water-free, net-structured film on the substrate has the topside of the carrier, which is provided with the dispersion forming the bonding layer, placed on it as soon as this dispersion is dry to the touch but still contains residual moisture.

112. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 92, wherein the net-structured film on the substrate and the carrier placed on said film and provided with the polymeric dispersion forming the bonding layer are pressed together between resilient platens at a temperature between 60°C and 105°C and at a pressure of not more than 5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

113. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 112, wherein after pressing the carrier provided with the dressing is subjected in the suspended state to drying to completion.

114. (New) The carrier of Claim 51, wherein the carrier comprises a leather.